# Los Angeles County Redistricting – People's Bloc Recommended Changes

12.8.21

Redistricting is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to protect the voting interests of minority communities. By ensuring district lines protect communities of interest, keeping communities who not only share everyday needs but have historically worked together to build political power, we can defend against the disenfranchisement that has plagued our County since its inception. Unfortunately, the Los Angeles County Redistricting Commission (CRC) appears to be preparing to undo much of the progress made to ensure communities of color can elect candidates of choice since the 1991 Supreme Court let stand a historic Los Angeles County redistricting plan. The 1965 Voting Rights Act was designed to protect the voting rights of racial minorities; unfortunately, we fear the CRC is using the VRA to undermine their voting power. Race cannot be the predominant or exclusive factor in drawing district lines. However, rather than attempting to follow the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, some commissioners appear to be using this provision to exclude consideration of race entirely and undermine public testimony from communities of color requesting that they be kept together.

Supervisorial District 1, as it is currently known, was formed in 1991 to create a Latinx majority district only after legal action that went all the way to the Supreme Court. Since then, community members and nonprofit organizations have worked hard to engage the Latinx community and build political power. Recent data had a 61.8% Latinx Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) SD 1 in 2019. However, in all three maps, the CRC is considering dramatically dropping the percentage of Latinx residents, threatening to undermine the political power built over decades.

Supervisorial District 2 has maintained a similar configuration since 1971. The most significant change came in 1991 when Compton was moved into SD 2 to join the other South Los Angeles cities. Home many of the historic Black neighborhoods of Los Angeles, SD 2 has been a consistent source of organizing in the Black community, which has maintained a strong influence in the District. Two of the CRC's plans threaten this makeup. Maps B-3 and G-1 significantly reduce the Black Citizen Voting Age population in SD 2 and pair these inner-city communities with the affluent coastal region. The stark disparities between these communities would create competing interests within the district, in which community members fear the wealth on the coast will drown out their needs.

## Recommended Map Changes

### Map F-2

Concerns:

Map F-2 is a departure from F-1 in ways that further hurt communities of color. F-1 is not perfect but allows the best opportunity for revisions to preserve communities of interest and the ability of communities of color to elect candidates of choice. The People's Bloc has submitted a revision to Map F-1 addressing many of these concerns.

Recommendations:

| Area | Change | Rationale |
| --- | --- | --- |
| West Hollywood, Hollywood, Hollywood Hills | Remove West Hollywood and Hollywood from SD 1, connecting them with similar communities in SD 3. | Map F-2 extends SD 1 further west capturing West Hollywood and the surrounding areas. These areas share COIs with SD 3 and have little in common with SD 1 and the Eastside; their inclusion in SD 1 dilutes the voting power of historic Eastside communities. |
| Thai Town | When shifting the border between SD 1 and SD 3, ensure Thai Town is kept whole. | Map F-1 splits a small part of Thai Town into SD 3, removing it from the majority of Thai Town in SD 1. This is a priority COI that residents want whole. *See image 1 below.* |
| Koreatown | Most of Koreatown is currently in SD 2, just below the SD 1/SD 3 border. When shifting the border between SD 1 and SD 3, ensure Koreatown is kept whole. | Koreatown in F-2 is mostly in SD 2 but is missing a rectangle bound by Vermont on the west, Hoover on the east, San Marino on the north, and Washington on the south. *See image 1 below.* |
| East San Gabriel Valley | Move Walnut from SD 1 to SD 4. | This consolidates East San Gabriel Valley COIs into a single district, keeping Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, Diamond Bar, and Walnut together in SD 4. |
| West San Gabriel Valley | Move Temple City and Arcadia from SD 5 to SD 1. | This unites key COIs in West San Gabriel Valley, keeping the WSGV Cities of Monterey Park, Alhambra, San Gabriel, Rosemead, Temple City, and Arcadia whole. Without removing West Hollywood and the surrounding areas from SD 1, this would dilute Latinx CVAP, so these changes need to be paired. |
| South LA | Keep South LA intact, the Black community together, and separate from the coast. | UCLA and Westwood are not a priority for the Bloc and can be removed if the commission prefers. |

General themes:

- Unlike Maps B-3 and G-1, Map F-2 and People's Bloc revision separate South LA from affluent coastal communities.
- The formation of Map F-1 and People's Bloc revision creates two Latinx majority districts (SD1 and SD4) and a Black influence district (SD2), unlike Map B-2, which creates two Latinx majority districts (SD1 and SD2) at the expense of a Black influence district.
- Map F-2 maintains two Latinx majority districts by razor-thin margins, 50.39% in SD1 and 50.05% in SD4. Removing West Hollywood from SD1 and Palos Verdes from SD4 would strengthen Latinx CVAP.

**Map G-1**

The most significant concern with Map G-1 is how SD 2 is reconfigured, extending it to the coast, bringing El Segundo, Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and Redondo Beach into SD 2. Other changes to G-1 mirror requests the People's Bloc recommend to F-2.

Recommendations:

| Area | Change | Rationale |
|------|--------|-----------|
| South LA | Remove El Segundo, Torrance, Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach, and Redondo Beach from SD 2. | The inclusion of more affluent coastal communities changes the composition of District 2 and drops the Black CVAP of what has historically been a Black influence district to 27.29%. This threatens the Black community's ability to elect a candidate of their choice in District 2. |
| Metro LA | Keep Thai Town whole in SD 1 and Koreatown whole in SD 2. | Thai Town is mostly whole in SD 1 (missing a small chunk bound by Hollywood on N, Sunset on S, Western on W, and Serrano on E). Koreatown is mostly in SD 2 but missing southeast the rectangular piece and parts of the northwest. This is a priority COI that residents want whole. *See image 1 below.* |
| West San Gabriel Valley | Move Temple City and Arcadia from SD 5 to SD 1. | This unites key COIs in West San Gabriel Valley, keeping the WSGV Cities of Monterey Park, Alhambra, San Gabriel, Rosemead, Temple City, and Arcadia whole. |
| East San Gabriel Valley | Move Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, Diamond Bar, and Walnut in SD 4. Map G-1 keeps these COIs whole in SD 1, but bringing WSGV into SD 1 would overpopulate SD 1. Moving ESGV to SD 4 addresses population concerns and keeps COIs whole. | This consolidates East San Gabriel Valley COIs into a single district, keeping Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, Diamond Bar, and Walnut together. Community members with the Bloc from SGV have prioritized keeping WSGV whole and ESGV whole but are not pushing for them to be in the same district. |

## Map B-3

Concerns:

The B series of maps are beyond repair. The Concentration of the Black community in South LA and the Latinx community in South East LA into a single district turns SD 2 into a Latinx majority district and removes the only Black influence district from the County map. Historically, the Black community has been able to elect a candidate of choice in SD 2. We urge the commission to preserve this historical Black seat and create additional districts that allow more communities to be represented instead of condensing them into a single district. This map only creates two districts where communities of color are likely to

elect a candidate of their choice. This is unacceptable. In comparison, other maps allow for the creation of three districts where communities of color are likely to have a choice in representation.

## Visualizations

Image 1 – Metro LA COIs:

Green boundaries are Metro LA COIs that should be kept whole at the borders of SD 1, SD 2, and SD 3.